

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07000 090914Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /066 W
-----090921Z 092463 /20

R 090835Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9450
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7000

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP
SUBJECT: ROMULO AND ENRILE DEPART FOR TRIPOLI

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, ACCOMPANIED BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE, SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA, AND ENERGY BOARD CHAIRMAN VELASCO, DEPARTED MANILA MAY 8 EN ROUTE TO TRIPOLI VIA JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR IN SEARCH OF SOLUTION TO MINDANAO CONFLICT IN THE WAKE OF BREAKDOWN OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MNLF. DELEGATION REPORTEDLY WILL SPEND ONE DAY IN BOTH JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR AND THEN FLY TO TRIPOLI FOR TALKS AIMED AT GARNERING SUPPORT FOR GOP POSITION AT UPCOMING ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI.

2. LOCAL PRESS STILL ENGAGED IN PUTTING BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON MINDANAO SITUATION FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF PEACE TALKS. ALL MORNING DAILIES CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY MAY 9 REPORTING THAT MNLF CEASEFIRE REPRESENTATIVE MANJOORSA, UPON DEPARTING FOR JEDDAH MAY 6, GAVE ASSURANCES TO DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY BARBERO THAT MNLF WOULD CONTINUE TO OBSERVE CEASEFIRE. COLUMNIST BIGORNIA WROTE IN MAY 9 BULLETIN TODAY EDITORIAL THAT ROMULO'S "INTERNATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED CHARISMA" CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD BE "EXPLOITED TO THE HILT" IN AN APPEAL TO ISLAMIC LEADERS HE KNOWS ON A "FIRST NAME BASIS". IN MORE PESSIMISTIC TONE, BIGORNIA ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF OIL EMBARGO BY MUSLIM STATES, CALLING FOR PHILIPPINE UNITY IN EVENT OF ISLAMIC ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

3. COMMENT: STOPS AT JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR REPRESENT

LAST MINUTE EFFORT BY MARCOS REGIME TO GAIN THE EAR IF
NOT THE SUPPORT OF ASEAN MEMBERS ATTENDING ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE FOR PHILIPPINE POSITION ON MUSLIM INSURGENCY.
MORE ACTIVIST INDONESIAN OR MALAYSIAN ROLE CANNOT BE
DISCOUNTED ENTIRELY, ESPECIALLY IF IT WERE LINKED TO
PHILIPPINES' RENUNCIATION OF ITS CLAIM TO SABAH. BUT THIS
WOULD BE MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM THE PAST, INASMUCH AS
NEITHER INDONESIA OR MALAYSIA HAS BEEN AT ALL INCLINED TO
ASSUME MINDANAO PEACEMAKER'S ROLE. AP ACCOUNT OF
ROMULO'S JAKARTA ARRIVAL NOTED THAT SUHARTO NOT EAGER TO
GET INVOLVED AND THAT FONMIN MALIK COMPALINED IN INTERVIEW
LAST WEEK MANILA HAS KEPT OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS IN DARK
CONCERNING MUSLIM NEGOTIATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOSLEMS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA07000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-0650
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770579/aaaacqdc.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61784698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2597289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMULO AND ENRILE DEPART FOR TRIPOLI
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RP, MNLF, (ROMULO, CARLOS P), (ENRILE, JUAN PONCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61784698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009